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**RELEASE  
NEWS**

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THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LAUNCH  
AZERBAIJAN REGIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK**

**April 14, 2005**

U.S. Ambassador Reno Harnish and Chief of Public-Political Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Ali Hasanov will participate in launching the new Azerbaijan Regional Television Network (ARTN). The first of the new transmitters at regional television stations will also be inaugurated, within the framework of this project. This transmitter will be installed for Dunya TV in Sumgayit. The launch will take place at the facilities of Dunya TV, Sumgayit, 10<sup>th</sup> micro district, Garabagh Cinema, on Friday, April 15, at 9 a.m.

“Today marks a huge step forward for the regional television broadcasters. This new transmitter is a symbol of the changes that the regional television owners will bring to their viewers,” said Ambassador Harnish

Seven TV stations, broadcasting in the regions of Azerbaijan - Alternative TV (Ganja), Aygun TV (Zagatala), Dunya TV (Sumgayit), Khayal TV (Guba), Mingachevir TV, Lankaran TV and Simurg TV (Tovuz) will be part of the new ARTN. The network is a project of the USAID - funded media program in Azerbaijan, implemented by IREX, and is aimed at improving the quality of broadcasting of the regional televisions.

As part of the Network project, IREX, along with the National Broadcasting Council and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, will develop a frequency map of Azerbaijan that will provide an accurate pictorial view of the range of coverage, both for the Baku-based and for the regional TV stations.

***NOTE TO MEDIA: All Press are invited to the event. For additional information please contact the US Embassy Press Service at 498 03 35/36/37.***